

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: W/W: ARREST AND DETENTION: AMERICAN PRISONERS

REF: MEXICO 5474 AND 5580

1. DEPARTMENT RELIEVED AND PLEASED RENNA AND BEASELEY NOW RETURNED TO NORMAL PRISON CONDITIONS. EMBASSY EFFORTS IN EFFECTING THIS MOVE APPRECIATED.

2. A REVIEW OF EMBASSY REPORTING ON RENNA AND BEASELEY SUGGESTS THAT LT. COL. GIL CARDENAS (PRESUMABLY WITH THE TACIT CONSENT OF PRISON DIRECTOR GENERAL ARCUATE FRANCO) ACTED IN PERSONAL PIQUE AT BEING OVERRULED BY GOBERNACION IN THE MATTER OF BRINGING TAPE RECORDERS TO LECUMBERRI. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CARDENAS' DELIBERATE DISTORTION OF CONTENTS OF MALA CAMACHO'S LETTER TO LECUMBERRI DIRECTOR (AS CAN BE ATTESTED TO BY VICE CONSUL HRINAK AND PRESUMABLY MALA CAMACHO HIMSELF) SEEMS TO OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR EMBASSY TO MAKE FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS. WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE THAT EMBASSY, IF IT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PRO-
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DUCTIVE, DISCUSS THE RENNA/BEASELEY INCIDENT AT APPRO-

PRIATE LEVEL, PURSUING, AT EMBASSY'S DISCRETION,
FOLLOWING LINE OF ARGUMENTATION:

--A) ON ASSUMPTION SUBSECRETARY BARRIOS' APPROVAL OF
USE OF TAPE RECORDERS WAS BASED NOT ONLY ON CONSULAR
CONVENTION BUT ON HIS AWARENESS OF SENSITIVITY OF MISSION
OF INTERVIEWING TEAM VIS-A-VIS US CONGRESS, GOM MAY BE
SUSCEPTIBLE TO IDEA THAT NEITHER USG NOR GOM SHOULD
TOLERATE ACTS SUCH AS CARDENAS' WHICH MAY WELL HAVE BEEN
CALCULATED TO DISCREDIT THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERVIEWING
TEAM IN EYES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO.

--B) DELIBERATE DISTORTION AND FRUSTRATION OF INTENT OF
LETTER FROM OFFICIAL OF MALO CAMACHO LEVEL BY A SUBORDI-
NATE PRISON OFFICER WOULD APPEAR TO BE REASON
TO INSTITUTE OR REQUEST DISCIPLINARY ACTION (OR REQUEST
TRANSFER) AGAINST CARDENAS.

--C) GOM REACTION TO EMBASSY OFFICER'S PRESENTATION OF
CARDENAS' ROLE IN THIS MATTER MAY OPEN WAY TO OFFICER'S
REPRESENTATION OF CARDENAS' TRANSFER TO REMOVE
UNNECESSARY IRRITANT TO AMERICAN PRISONER PROBLEM. (HOW
FAR THIS POINT CAN BE PRESSED WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER
EMBASSY HAS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION IN FILES TO MAKE GOOD
CASE AGAINST CARDENAS).

3. IF EMBASSY CONCURS IN THIS GENERAL APPROACH, APPROACH
SHOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALSO, IF EMBASSY
AGREES THAT PARAGRAPH ONE OF EMBTEL 5580 INDICATES THAT
MALO CAMACHO MAY BE GOING ALONG WITH CARDENAS' EXCUSE
THAT BEASELEY AND RENNA PUT IN ISOLATION FOR OWN PRO-
TECTION, EMBASSY APPROACH WOULD HAVE TO BE AT HIGHEST
FEASIBLE LEVEL TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS. KISSINGER

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